

VII. GENERAL, MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE, & LIBRARY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

A.2. Finances – STEM Action Center funding – Action Item

The Commission has requested and is projected to receive the STEM Action Center's support for two projects in FY2020 totaling \$92,000.

1) Summer STEM from your library, \$40,000 from STEM Action Center

Summer STEM has been a successful program that has brought STEM programming to a large number of Idaho families at a relatively low cost per participant. Each year has brought increased participation from libraries and attendance at STEM programs. Enriching learning opportunities during the summer months are critical to helping children combat the "summer slide," and libraries are able to demonstrate for families how they can continue engaging with STEM at home. In 2020, ICfL staff will award up to 65 libraries with \$500 mini-grants for STEM outreach programming. STEM books and other resources will also be provided.

2) Make It training, \$52,000 from STEM Action Center + \$11,000 from ICfL = \$63,000

Funds will help supplement ICfL's budget to provide training for public and school library staff to further their Make It/STEM programming and services in the spring of 2020. The Commission has been taking steps to support Idaho libraries' interest in Virtual Reality (VR) by partnering with Idaho Virtual Reality Council on circulating kits, Oculus Education on providing VR headsets to libraries, networking with a local Google Expedition expert, and discussing VR best practices with other state library agency consultants. The main goal of the training is to raise library staff, and their communities, from virtual reality consumers to virtual reality experience creators. In doing so, library staff will learn 21st Century skills they can pass along to their communities. Funds totaling \$52,000 from the STEM AC will provide VR Storytelling Creation kits for 40 libraries. Each kit contains: four iPhones, four phone holder headsets, one 360-degree camera, a tripod, wi-fi router, and a storage tote (\$46,000). Trainer costs are \$5,000 and branding is budgeted at \$1,000. ICfL is providing the meeting space and providing up to \$11,000 to reimburse travel costs. The training is tentatively scheduled for April 17 & 18, 2020.

The Commission will evaluate all programs with participant surveys and submit a final report with all data and outcomes to the STEM Action Center.

We expect the STEM Action Center funds to be deposited in the Library Services Improvement Fund by the end of December 2019 or early January 2020.

As outlined in Idaho Code, Board approval is required for all expenditures from the LSIF:

33-2506 (2) Purpose. The purpose of the library services improvement fund is to further the development of library services for all the people of Idaho. Moneys in the library services improvement fund are appropriated to and may be expended by the board of library commissioners at any time for the purposes provided in this section.

(4)(c) Payments from the library services improvement fund may be used only for the purposes approved by the board of library commissioners. Funding decisions shall be solely within the discretion of the board of library commissioners.

Suggested motion: I move that the expenditure of up to \$92,000 from the Library Services Improvement Fund be approved for implementation of the FY2020 STEM projects outlined in the Sponsorship Award Agreements with the Idaho STEM Action Center.

M/S _____/_____